

woman who was not only their mayor, but was their sister, their mother, their daughter and their friend.

I join Oregonians from across the state in mourning the passing of Mayor Sharon Branstiter.

COMMENDING ALYSSA N. NABORS

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Alyssa N. Nabors for being selected as a 2007 National Merit Scholarship Awards winner. Alyssa is a student at L.D. Bell High School in Hurst, Texas.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition held annually. Students are initially evaluated by their performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Of the approximately 1.4 million entrants, only about 8200 students are selected as finalists.

In this first announcement of 2007 winners, about 1000 high school seniors are awarded scholarships from various companies, foundations, and businesses. These organizations fund the scholarships to help some of our nation's most capable students reach their potential.

I wish to offer my congratulations to Alyssa. I would also like to recognize her parents and the faculty of L.D. Bell High School for their outstanding commitment to Alyssa's education. I wish her even greater success as she continues her education, and I am proud to represent her in the 26th District of Texas.

DEFENDING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF COMFORT WOMEN SURVIVORS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, today, Washington welcomes Prime Minister Shinzo Abe of Japan, a country that has been our good and trusted ally in Asia. The Prime Minister's visit promises to further cement this important and expanding U.S.-Japan relationship.

Our strong ties depend upon our shared values of democracy and human rights or as his Foreign Minister notes, a "values oriented diplomacy." Unfortunately, the rhetoric does not consistently match Tokyo's actions towards its neighbors and allies. This is dramatically true in regard to the Comfort Women tragedy where possibly as many as 200,000 women and girls were pressed into sexual servitude for the Imperial Armed Forces of Japan.

My colleague, Mr. HONDA, is the leader on this issue and introduced on January 31, 2007, H. Res. 121, legislation that calls upon Japan to "acknowledge, apologize, and accept historical responsibility in a clear and unequivocal statement for Imperial Japan's Armed Force's maintenance of a system of sexual slavery, presently known to the world as 'Comfort Women,' during its colonial and wartime occupation of Asia and the Pacific Islands."

On February 15, 2007, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific and the Global Environment, held a moving hearing with three survivors of this abusive Imperial Japanese government sanctioned and maintained system. It was clear from their testimony that these women needed, but had not received an adequate apology for their suffering and humiliation from the Government of Japan.

Clearly their experience is neither new nor has this sort of violence against women stopped. The topic of sex slavery is not merely a historical footnote, but has relevance to today's world where human trafficking is exploding and rape is a feature of ethnic conflict. Thus, it should come as no surprise that H. Res. 121 has substantial bipartisan support, with nearly 100 cosponsors.

To date, a careful analysis of the Japanese political process shows that Japan has never provided an official governmental apology to the Comfort Women. This is incredible. Do the Japanese think we do not understand their political system, nor care to?

It is also a concern of Congress that Tokyo's apparent insensitivity, it's surprising and insistent focus on narrow definitions and self-seeking legalisms convincing to no one but a few, even in Japan, is harming U.S. relationships in Asia and adding instability to an already volatile region.

An unequivocal admission of past wrongdoing toward the Comfort Women would remove an outstanding moral issue weakening the ties between Japan and major U.S. allies in the region. But more important, it would demonstrate Japan's commitment to human rights, women's rights, and underscore its very new efforts to combat human trafficking. Officially apologizing to the surviving Comfort Women is "value oriented diplomacy."

Getting history right and taking formal responsibility for historical misdeeds are the marks of a great nation. An apology from Japan with respect to the Comfort Women would enhance Japan's over 60-year history of constructive and responsible membership in the today's world community and our alliance.

Madam Speaker, for all these reasons, I hope that my colleagues will join in co-sponsoring H. Res. 121 to signal that the U.S. is very concerned about this important request for social justice and human dignity from Japan.

RECOGNIZING EAST VINCENT TOWNSHIP, CHESTER COUNTY, ON ITS 175TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of East Vincent Township, Chester County, for celebrating its 175th anniversary on May 4th, 2007.

East Vincent Township is a rural community situated on the banks of the Schuylkill River in Chester County. During the Revolutionary War, GEN George Washington and the Continental Army traversed and lived in the area during their Valley Forge encampment. Today,

more than 6,500 people call East Vincent home. As the Township grows and develops, significant efforts are being made to preserve its beautiful open spaces for future generations.

On Saturday, May 5, 2007, the East Vincent Township community will gather and celebrate this auspicious occasion with a parade, ceremony and evening concert.

So I ask, Madam Speaker, that my colleagues join me in congratulating the people of East Vincent Township for celebrating their 175th anniversary and for contributing to the wonderful quality of life of Chester County, PA.

RECOGNIZING KEVIN LOVE OF LAKE OSWEGO, OREGON

HON. DARLENE HOOLEY

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Ms. HOOLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a remarkable student athlete from Lake Oswego, Oregon. Kevin Love was recently named the 2006-07 Gatorade National Boys Basketball Player of the Year.

Often perceived as the most prestigious high school athletic award, Kevin was selected from among a group of more than 547,000 student boy basketball players. Kevin averaged 33.6 points, 17 rebounds, four assists, and three blocks per game as center for the Lake Oswego Lakers.

In addition to his distinguished record on the court, Kevin received this honor for the many contributions he has made in the classroom and in our community. As an active volunteer, Kevin has mentored countless youth and is an inspiration to all.

It is truly an honor and privilege to extend my sincere congratulations to Kevin Love. I wish Kevin continued success as a future UCLA Bruin.

COMMENDING KIM TRAN

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Kim Tran for being selected as a 2007 National Merit Scholarship Awards winner. Kim is a student at Birdville High School in North Richland Hills, TX.

The National Merit Scholarship Program is an academic competition held annually. Students are initially evaluated by their performance on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Of the approximately 1.4 million entrants, only about 8,200 students are selected as finalists.

In this first announcement of 2007 winners, about 1,000 high school seniors are awarded scholarships from various companies, foundations, and businesses. These organizations fund the scholarships to help some of our Nation's most capable students reach their potential.

Kim is ranked first in her class at Birdville High School. Aside from academics, Kim holds leadership positions in numerous clubs